

Big Bend

Ranger Programs

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



May 22 - 29, 2016

Sunday, May 22

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Healthy Parks, Healthy People” Work got you stressed? Have elevated blood pressure? Looking to shed that extra pound? Join Ranger J. Jurado for a look at why some doctors are prescribing parks to patients, and how a visit to Big Bend can make you physically and emotionally healthier. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Bring water and wear hiking shoes. 1 mile walk. 1 hour.

Thursday, May 26

Special NPS Centennial Program Co-Hosted by Big Bend Conservancy and National Park Service Staff

9:00 AM Program - “Our International Neighbors” Join Dave Larson, Chief of Science and Resource Management, for discussions about Big Bend National Park’s special relationship with its neighbors across the Rio Grande. Further dialogue will take place over lunch in Boquillas. Passports are required for crossing into Mexico. Visitors are responsible for transportation and food costs. Meet at the Boquillas Port of Entry.

Friday, May 27

9:30 AM Guided Walk - “History Beneath Your Feet” Big Bend is rich with history, including the very trails we hike on. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn more about what the Civilian Conservation Corps built and how we maintain these hiking trails using similar tools and construction methods. Meet at the Lost Mine trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and wear good hiking shoes. 1.5 miles. 1 hour.

Special NPS Centennial Program Co-Hosted by Big Bend Conservancy and National Park Service Staff

6:30 PM “Birthday Party x 2” Celebrate the 100th birthday of the National Park Service and the 20th birthday of the Big Bend Conservancy. Join park staff and conservancy board members on the Chisos Mountains Lodge patio for birthday cake. Free to park visitors.

9:00 PM Evening Program – “Looking Forward” Many things have changed since the creation of the National Park Service one hundred years ago, yet the future remains as uncertain today as it was in 1916 and probably more so. Join Ranger B. Frohbieter for a brief look at where we’ve been as an organization, where we hope to go in the future, and the challenges to be met in our next century of stewardship. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

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10:15 PM Evening Program – “Star-gazing with Binoculars and the Naked Eye” You don’t need a telescope to locate and enjoy many of the natural wonders in the night skies over Big Bend National Park. Join Volunteer R. Wonite for a laser-guided tour of the more prominent stars, star clusters, and nebulae in the summer sky, weather permitting. Meet at the pullout at Mile 15.3 on the road to Rio Grande Village. Wheelchair accessible. Bring binoculars and/or a chair if you have them. 1 hour.

Saturday, May 28

Special NPS Centennial Program Co-Hosted by Big Bend Conservancy and National Park Service Staff

8:00 AM Guided Walk - “Discovering the Chisos – A Mini-BioBlitz” Join David Elkowitz, Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services, for a hike in the cool of the early morning in the Chisos Basin. Texas Parks and Wildlife’s Collin Hanks will demonstrate how to catalog species using the “iNaturalist” app. Meet at the Chisos Mountains Lodge patio. Bring water, hat, and good walking shoes.

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Healthy Parks, Healthy People” Work got you stressed? Have elevated blood pressure? Looking to shed that extra pound? Join Ranger J. Jurado for a look at why some doctors are prescribing parks to patients, and how a visit to Big Bend can make you physically and emotionally healthier. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Bring water and wear hiking shoes. 1 mile walk. 1 hour.

9:00 PM Evening Program – “Some Endangered Evening” Is it dark where you live? Can you see as many stars as you once could? A dark night sky is an important factor in the lives of living creatures planet-wide, a way for humans to connect to days past, when artificial light was non-existent. Join Ranger B. Smith for an evening about evenings. A telescope will be set up to view a celestial object. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

Special NPS Centennial Program Co-Hosted by Big Bend Conservancy and National Park Service Staff

Sunday, May 29

8:30 AM Guided Walk - “Wetland Wonders – A Mini-BioBlitz” Join David Elkowitz, Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services, and Conservancy Board members for birding, beaver spotting, and a discussion of the park’s efforts to improve interpretation at the area visitor center. Texas Parks and Wildlife’s Collin Hanks will demonstrate how to catalog species using the “iNaturalist” app. Meet at the trailhead for the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail. Bring water, hat, and good walking shoes.